



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

)

•

•

)

:

)

•

)

•

1

•

1

:

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SECOND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. In accordance with the pre-OG Notice dated July 11, 2003, entitled "Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003," only a copy of the listed foreign document is enclosed. An Official Letter/Search Report, dated January 15, 2004, from a counterpart application and citing the listed documents is enclosed for the Examiner's convenient reference.

FORMAL MATTERS

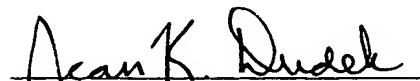
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been issued, neither a certificate, petition nor payment of a fee is believed to be required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Jean K. Dudek
Registration No. 30,938

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
JKD:ayr
161133 v 1

